

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 12:02:24 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 11:53 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS BOARD PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS TBPG

First Name: Tyler

Last Name: Hebert

Title: Geoscientist

Organization you are affiliated with: Fugro

Email:

City: Houston

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

I am opposed to the SAC abolishing the Texas Board of Professional Geologist.

Most people do not think about geology, and how it is vital to their everyday life. Geology is more than rocks or oil and gas, geology is the study of the earth and the processes that occur on the earth. A couple examples of how geologist protect the public health and safety of Texas citizens on a daily basis can be found in the work geoscientist do in geotechnical engineering and water resource planning.

One example of how vital geologist are in geotechnical engineering can be seen in flood protection, which should hit close to home after the flooding experienced in the last few years in various areas around the state. If geologist are not included in the building of flood protection catastrophic failures, like what happened when the levees broke in New Orleans during hurricane Katrina, can happen. A key factor in why many flood walls around New Orleans failed is due to the failure of understanding the subsurface geology of the area and poor planning by engineers who did not understand the effects geology have on the construction. Many flood walls around New Orleans were not deep enough under the surface to even reach the bottom of the canals and river channels they were trying to keep water in. This caused water to move under these flood walls, making the walls unstable and allowing water into peoples homes. Another thing Katrina showed us is the people who oversaw the construction of these walls built the flood walls into unstable sediments such as clay and silt. Due to this when the water levels started to rise behind the walls it simply created enough force to push the wall over due to this key over site from the people who were suppose to protect the public.

Another way geologist help with public health and safety is through water resource planning. Since Senate bill 1 in 1997 geologist are the principle developers of hydrodynamic modeling to show groundwater flow and availability. This directly affects ALL Texans. Drinking water is probably the most precious resource on earth, and without sustainable water management this resource disappear leaving millions of people effected. Texas has a major drought problem, this leads to more water being taken and used from aquifers than is being replaced by natural

processes.

Please keep the Texas Board of Professional Geologist licensing program active, as this license will only become more vital for geoscientist to have as time goes on. Many geological problems face the citizens of Texas on a daily basis if you only take the time to look at the big picture.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Keep the Texas Board of Professional Geologist and promote the use of trained geoscientist. This will benefit many Texans public health and safety in ways many people do not consider.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree